

Disciples 101

Chapter 101: Someone from the Palace

Lu Zhou already knew Ding Fanqiu was holding back earlier. However, to him, regardless of how many leaves Ding Fanqiu had, he was still just a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator.

When the fifth leaf sprouted, the witchcraft circles stopped growing. Waves and waves of energy swept out forcefully from Ding Fanqiu's Hundred Insight Tribulation avatar, leaving ripples in its wake.

Boom!

"I've been waiting for this!"

Several hundred soldiers were sent flying by the energy waves. The others were forced to retreat. They did not dare to advance.

Ding Fanqiu moved at lightning speed. His Five-leaf avatar's energy covered a much wider area compared to before.

Many cultivators cried out in pain as they were sent flying before they died. The soldiers who could not dodge in time were drowned by the waves of energy and fell to the ground.

The Five-leaf avatar left corpses of the soldiers in its wake.

Ding Fanqiu had taken the lives of several hundred men with just one strike!

The soldiers and cultivators retreated again!

Someone shouted, "Calm down! They're restricted by the Grand Witchcraft Formation! They can't escape even if they sprout wings. We'll just wait until they're too exhausted to fight back!"

The soldiers and cultivators retreated a few hundred meters away and looked at them hungrily like a tiger looking at its prey. They were not stupid. There was no need for them to directly clash with Ding Fanqiu at this point.

The Grand Witchcraft Formation is growing stronger!"

"Damnit!" One of Ding Fanqiu's disciples cursed.

Ding Fanqiu did not let his guard down even though he managed to kill so many people. He finally decided to descend and recall his avatar. The Hundred Tribulation Insight avatar consumed too much of his Primal Qi. He had to conserve his strength.

The Grand Witchcraft Formation continued to grow. Although its speed was much slower now, if this continued, they would be bound sooner or later.

Little Yuan'er looked at the Grand Witchcraft Formation that was growing closer and closer to them as she asked in a slightly trembling voice, "Master... what now?"

‘Master?’ Ding Fanqiu turned to look at Lu Zhou and Little Yuan’er. He was certain he did not hear wrongly. He had planned on forcefully taking Little Yuan’er away in the midst of the chaos. At that time, there was nothing she could do about that old man’s life and death. He asked, “The old householder is your master?”

Little Yuan’er rolled her eyes and said, “You’re annoying, do you know that? What’s it to you? If you continue to ramble on, I’ll ask my master to clobber you to death!”

“...” For unknown reasons, Ding Fanqiu did not lose his temper when he heard Little Yuan’er provocative words. He only remained silent as he thought to himself, ‘It’s truly a shame if I can’t make her my disciple!’

Lu Zhou stroked his beard. His expression was aloof. He would take Ding Fanqiu’s life with an item card if Ding Fanqiu made any sudden movement. An item card would undoubtedly be able to kill a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator.

Ding Fanqiu looked at Lu Zhou again. He discovered Lu Zhou was still as calm as ever. Suspicion rose in his heart as he probed Lu Zhou’s aura and cultivation base again. ‘He’s weak! Truly weak! At most, he has connected three meridians in the Brahman Sea realm. He doesn’t seem to be hiding his true cultivation base. Once the Grand Witchcraft Formation reaches him and takes effect, he’ll have to defend himself with his Primal Qi. At that time, he won’t have a way to conceal his strength. I wonder who he is? How did he become the little girl’s master?!’

At this moment, the witchcraft circles’ speed increased! In just a blink of an eye, it covered the entire jetty. It was as though a giant translucent bowl had fallen from the skies. The Grand Witchcraft Formation was officially completed!

The witchcraft’s light, even the sight of it, and its Primal Qi affected the target’s judgment, consciousness, and could even corrode its target’s cultivation base!

At this moment, the world seemed to have plunged into darkness!

“Run!” Ding Fanqiu’s expression changed slightly. Before the witchcraft spell completely entered his Extraordinary Eight Meridians and blocked his dantian’s sea of Qi, he had to leave this place as quickly as possible. He turned around and saw his three disciples were drenched in sweat. He was the only one at the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm. He could not bring so many people to escape with him. He looked at Lu Zhou again. He said, “Old householder, I don’t care what kind of elite you are, but you and I must work together now if we want to leave! The Grand Witchcraft Formation will render us powerless in no time at all.”

Lu Zhou shook his head. His current cultivation base was only in the Brahman Sea Eight Meridians realm. He could not even be considered as an eight meridians expert yet. Moreover, his avatar was the lowly Mighty Four Quadrants. If he manifested it, it would only be slightly larger than a monkey. It would be of no use at all. He stroked his beard and said indifferently, “...you’re not worth it.”

When Ding Fanqiu heard this, he said haughtily, “If I didn’t summon my Hundred Tribulation Insight avatar earlier, you’ll be dead by now! The palace has laid down this Grand Formation to guard this place. Now that the trap has been triggered, we won’t be able to leave if we don’t act now. Currently, I’m the only one capable of escaping from this place.” Then, he turned to Little Yuan’er who seemed to be in a

daze. "Little girl, I'm giving you a final chance. Come with me, I'll bring you away from this dangerous situation!"

"Get lost!" Little Yuan'er said angrily.

A regretful expression appeared on Ding Fanqiu's face. He shook his head before he said, "If that's the case, I'll leave on my own and leave you to your fate!" After he finished speaking, he moved at lightning speed as energy surged out of his body again. The witchcraft was already invading his meridians! 'If I don't leave now, I'll be stuck here forever!'

Just a few moments ago, Ding Fanqiu was still hesitant about leaving his disciples here. However, he did not hesitate now. He did not have the time to hesitate now after all. He fully unleashed his power at the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm at this moment. He shot domineeringly into the air as he attempted to break free from the bind of the Grand Witchcraft Formation.

The seemingly toxic green smoke that had risen from the purple circles obstructed Ding Fanqiu's vision.

"Master, don't leave me here!"

Master!"

Ding Fanqiu's three disciples cried out when they saw their master had almost left the boundary of the formation. Their cultivation bases were only in the Divine Court realm. Moreover, they were already weakened by the witchcraft trap. How could they possibly leave the Grand Formation?

The three of them put together could not even compare to Little Yuan'er.

Little Yuan'er merely felt a minor effect. The Supreme Purity Jade Slip was much better than other cultivation methods, after all.

Lu Zhou looked around him. Nobody approached him. He looked up and Ding Fanqiu rose higher and higher into the sky.

Although Ding Fanqiu's vision was blurry, he continued to unleash another wave of energy.

Lu Zhou shook his head, 'What a shame! If only he was bold enough to take a gamble! If he had used his Hundred Tribulations avatar, he might have a chance. If he doesn't, he'll certainly fail.'

This Grand Witchcraft Formation was on another level compared to ordinary Grand Formations. Even the Grand Formation he laid out when he captured Ye Tianxin near Bluesun Mountain could not compare to this Grand Witchcraft Formation. A mere Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator trying to break free without using his avatar was similar to trying to build castles in the sky!

Lu Zhou shook his head. 'How can you underestimate such a Formation?'

All of a sudden.

Whoosh!

In the distant sky, a streak of energy with a clearly different color from the witchcraft circle shot toward Ding Fanqiu. It was a feathered arrow wrapped in robust energy! Because of its speed, it seemed to

create sparks from its friction with the air! The feathered arrow flew into the range of the Grand Witchcraft Formation at lightning speed and hit Ding Fanqiu!

Ding Fanqiu who was caught off guard fell rapidly from the sky. The arrow pierced through his layer of protective energy, causing it to burst like a balloon. His Primal Qi leaked into the surroundings, rolling out in majestic waves all over the area and leaving ripples in its wake.

It was a spectacular sight to behold!

Puh!

Ding Fanqiu spat out a mouthful of fresh blood in the sky.

Bam!

Ding Fanqiu crashed through a building, destroying it in the process. The energy around him instantly dispersed the moment he hit the building.

It was an archer! It was a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm archer! An elite had arrived! Only a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm archer could land a hit on Ding Fanqiu from such a distance under these circumstances. Also, the archer must have a certain level of skill. Who could that person be?

Under Great Yan's skies, there was only one person who could pull off such a shocking feat, easily piercing through a Five-leaf avatar elite's protective energy layer. It must have been the most powerful person among the Three Godly Archers! He was here!

At this moment, everyone's attention was focused on the arrow!

Chapter 102: One of the Three Godly Archers

"Master!" Ding Fanqiu's three disciples exclaimed in shock. An expression of disbelief could be seen on their faces. Their master whom they respected, a Five-leaf Golden Lotus avatar elite, was shot down by an arrow!

'Such a high-level archery skill!'

'Is the elite from the palace here?'

Everyone looked around their surroundings, trying to catch a glimpse of the newcomer.

Lu Zhou looked at the direction where the arrow had come from. Although his vision was obscured, he could vaguely see a flying chariot hovering at the edge of the horizon.

The boxy bright-red flying chariot was not big. It was like a palanquin. Each corner of the flying chariot was supported by a girl dressed in red robes. Their faces were painted with heavy makeup as well.

'So, the reinforcements from the palace are here! It seems like there is more than one of them. What if one Deadly Strike Card isn't enough?'

Meanwhile, the archer could be seen next to the flying chariot. He wore a cape and a bamboo hat. At this moment, he was descending to the ground at an extremely fast speed before landing on the ground with ease.

The archer possessed a Six-leaf cultivation base at least! He was Chen Zhu, the most powerful person among the Divine Capital's Three Godly Archers!

Upon seeing Chen Zhu, the soldiers fell to their knees in unison.

"Greetings, Lord Chen!"

The Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm archer stared at Lu Zhou and the others, he did not acknowledge the soldiers. He walked toward Lu Zhou and the others at a speed that was neither slow nor fast. As he got closer, they could see his figure with increasing clarity. He finally stopped moving when he was a dozen meters away from them. After that, he removed his bamboo hat and tossed it aside. His entire person radiated a cold aura.

Name: Chen Zhu

Race: Triverso

Realm: Nascent Divinity Tribulation

'Triverso?' Lu Zhou was slightly surprised, but his expression remained neutral. He glanced at the bright-red flying chariot again and the four girls who were supporting it. Perhaps, they were too far away, he could only see the outlines of their figures. However, based on their auras, he determined that at least two of them were in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm. However, a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator without any leaves was not a genuine cultivator in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm!

'I think I might have underestimated the situation. Should I use an Impeccable Card to escape?'

Lu Zhou was still contemplating his options when Chen Zhu's cold voice rang in the air. "The lord has ordered for these people from the Evil Sky Pavilion to be captured and handed over to the palace."

The soldiers and cultivators bowed and responded in unison, "Understood!"

Ding Fanqiu's three disciples paled immediately. They cried out one after another.

"We're not disciples from the Evil Sky Pavilion! You've made a mistake!"

"We're fakes!"

However, Chen Zhu who held a bow and arrow in his hands said indifferently, "Since they're fakes, we'll execute them here!"

"..."

The palace might have given them some consideration if they were from the give Evil Sky Pavilion. However, since they were fakes, there was no need to be considerate toward imposters.

Upon hearing this, Ding Fanqiu's three disciples fell to the ground.

Chen Zhu played with his bow that seemed to be an earth-grade weapon. It was similar to Li Qing's bow. He did not nock an arrow to his bow. Instead, he smiled before he placed his right hand on the bowstring, drawing it back. At this moment, he turned his Qi into an energy arrow.

Bzzt!

There was a buzz in the air as Chen Zhu pulled the bowstring back. It sounded extremely ominous.

Target: Ding Fanqiu's only female disciple.

Twang!

The arrow took flight immediately. The female disciple did not have time to plead or resist before the arrow pierced through her chest. Her eyes widened before she dropped dead. Her aura had completely vanished.

"Junior Sister!"

"Junior Sister!"

The other two disciples cried out, unable to believe their eyes.

How would it be possible for a Divine Court realm cultivator who was restricted by the Grand Witchcraft Formation to defend herself against Chen Zhu, one of the Divine Capital's Three Godly Archers?

Ding Fanqiu's expression changed drastically. "You..."

Chen Zhu sneered as he raised his right arm again.

Bzzt!

An energy arrow appeared on the bowstring again.

Everyone understood Chen Zhu's plan. He was going to kill them one by one with his arrows. He looked at Ding Fanqiu coldly as he said, "Ji Tiandao?" His arrow was trained on Ding Fanqiu.

Ding Fanqiu coughed violently as he sat up. He lifted his hand and broke the arrow that was embedded in his body. After that, he asked in a tone that was tinged with incredulity, "You... are Chen Zhu, one of the Three Godly Archers, whose arrows never miss?"

Chen Zhu chuckled. "My reputation precedes me." Then, he said slowly, "Indeed, I'm Chen Zhu. You've trespassed where you shouldn't have..."

Ding Fanqiu brushed his white hair aside before he said, "This is how the Evil Sky Pavilion has always operated."

Chen Zhu shook his head. "That's enough. It's one thing for you to fool the others with your act, but you can drop your act in front of my lord. Your strength and cultivation base are too weak."

Ding Fanqiu was stunned. He glanced at the bright-red flying chariot in the sky. An expression of surprise appeared on his face before it was replaced by a stiff and unnatural expression.

Chen Zhu said confidently, "Even the real patriarch of the Evil Sky Pavilion would have to admit defeat today, let alone an imposter like you. This Grand Witchcraft Formation was prepared specifically with blind and arrogant cultivators, such as yourself, in mind." He did not release his grip on the bowstring. Instead, he looked left and right in search of other targets. He appeared flippant as though his opponents were just a herd of sheep waiting to be slaughtered.

It was only natural that Chen Zhu took the situation lightly. After all, he was a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm godly archer. He could shoot three energy arrows at a time. Nobody could tell who his next target would be. The naked eye would not be able to follow the movements of a godly archer when he was shooting.

At this moment, Lu Zhou finally spoke up, "Three Godly Archers of the Divine Capital?" His ancient voice was deep and domineering.

"Eh?" Chen Zhu's gaze shifted from Ding Fanqiu to Lu Zhou. He frowned slightly. He did not notice the old man prior to this!

Lu Zhou's expression was calm. His right hand was resting on his back while his left hand was stroking his beard. It seemed as though he was not affected by the Grand Witchcraft Formation at all.

Chen Zhu was shocked. He asked skeptically, "You're not affected by the Grand Formation?"

Lu Zhou responded indifferently, "Are you talking to me?"

Chen Zhu waved his hand that was holding onto the bow. "Do you know who you're talking to?"

Lu Zhou shook his head and said, "I applaud you for your bravery."

"Old man... who are you?" Chen Zhu asked arrogantly.

Little Yuan'er could not hold it back any longer. Before Lu Zhou could reply, she retorted in a clear voice, "The person standing before you is the true master of the Evil Sky Pavilion!" Her voice was infused with Primal Qi.

Ding Fanqiu, "..."

The two disciples. "..."

Chen Zhu. "..."

Ding Fanqiu trembled inwardly. Realization dawned on him as he pieced the puzzles together. An awkward expression appeared on his face. 'No wonder! I had thought this little girl resembled the Evil Sky Pavilion's ninth disciple!' He did not know if he should laugh or cry at this moment. He was in a lot of pain. To think he attempted to take her under his wings several times. Who knew the old man whom he had brought with him was the old villain he had been impersonating?

'I'm dead! I'm dead!'

However, Chen Zhu guffawed. It was as though he had been told the greatest joke of the day.

"My lord was informed that this Ji Tiandao is an impostor. I am to kill him on the spot." Chen Zhu raised his right arm, condensing an energy arrow.

It was at moments like this that he could not let his guard down.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "If you answer three of my questions, I'll turn a blind eye to today's event."

Chen Zhu was about to erupt in anger. However, bells began to ring in the air as though an order was being conveyed. Upon hearing this, he frowned slightly. He asked with a tinge of annoyance, "What are they?"

"First, who's your lord? Second, what's the purpose of fishing the corpses out of the river? Third, who's the mastermind behind the destruction of the Fish Dragon Village? If you answer these three questions, no one will die today."

Chapter 103: The Price of Stupidity

Lu Zhou's tone, attitude, and expression convinced Ding Fanqiu that Lu Zhou was the real Ji Tiandao, the real master of the Evil Sky Pavilion, before Lu Zhou even made a move! There was no doubt that Lu Zhou was the patriarch of the Fiend Path who had nine great villains as his disciples. Was there anyone under the heavens, apart from Ji Tiandao, who was able to stand, unaffected, in a Grand Witchcraft Formation?

Ding Fanqiu's two remaining disciples' jaws dropped. They were as motionless as a doll. Their bodies trembled in fear from this revelation.

Meanwhile, Chen Zhu frowned when he heard the three questions. It seemed like he was waiting for an order from the flying chariot.

Silence permeated the place. It was so quiet that the silence seemed palpable.

At this moment, the Great Witchcraft Formation was fully activated!

The soldiers standing outside the Formation raised their spears as they readied themselves for the order to strike. The cultivators also prepared themselves to attack their targets.

'This is a sure-win situation... My lord, what are you thinking about?' Chen Zhu thought to himself.

Ring! Ring! Ring!

The bells rang again.

As soon as Chen Zhu heard the sound, his frown eased immediately. A knowing smile appeared on his face. He had never met anyone who dared to speak to him in such a manner. His expression was cold as he said, "My apologies, it's meaningless for someone who's about to die to know the answers to these questions."

Death was the best outcome for these people! A shot arrow could not be recalled.

Bzzt –

Chen Zhu drew the bowstring back and turned his Qi into several energy arrows. His eyes glinted coldly as he asked pointedly, "Any last words?"

A Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm archer was truly skilled at turning Qi into energy arrows. Indeed, the godly archer could be considered as an expert in his own right! As expected of the Divine Capital's Three Godly Archers! From his movements alone, Lu Zhou could clearly see Chen Zhu was much more powerful than Li Qing, one of the four Dark Knights.

As Chen Zhu looked at Lu Zhou's indifferent expression and lack of reply, his arrows buzzed again.

At this moment, Lu Zhou scoffed softly as he shook his head. He said, "There's a price to be paid for being stupid." Not one, but five item cards suddenly appeared in his right hand. He had bought four cards earlier with just a thought.

Lu Zhou waved his arm lightly as five glowing vortexes appeared in his hand. They rotated in the counterclockwise direction! In just a short moment, the five vortexes shot out.

Twang! Twang! Twang!

Chen Zhu released his energy arrows at the same time. Unfortunately, they were devoured by the vortexes.

The vortexes that were churning in the counterclockwise direction appeared stunning under the light purple glow of the witchcraft Formation. They were linked together like five interlinked rings as they continued to shoot forward.

"What the..." Chen Zhu furrowed his eyebrows.

At this moment, a golden light shrouded everyone. Everything seemed to spin at this moment!

This was a Daoist Mudra. When the Daoist Mudra was launched, everything paled in comparison!

'This is dangerous!' Chen Zhu who was taken aback quickly retreated. He had never seen a skill like this before. At that moment when he was distracted, the five vortexes suddenly grew in size.

The golden light intensified, the area it shone on enlarged as well. They looked like countless Taiji Golden Circles.

"Daoist Mudras! How's this possible?" Chen Zhu could not retreat in time. His eyes were filled with shock as he pulled his bowstring back and shot three energy arrows out.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Chen Zhu did not stop, he fired another three energy arrows.

However, the Golden Taiji Mudra was unaffected, devouring all of Chen Zhu's arrows.

Upon seeing this, Chen Zhu's eyes widened in fear. A hint of nervousness could be seen on his face as well. His hand that held the bow trembled slightly before he began to shoot many arrows out.

Unfortunately, the arrows were completely ineffective against the Golden Taiji. Unique golden symbols could be seen everywhere at this moment, covering everything.

Chen Zhu was too close to the golden symbols at this moment, there was no way for him to escape. He thought to himself, frightened, 'How can there be such a huge Mudra? Are Daoist Mudras so big in the first place?'

The golden circles formed a round wall that was 10 feet tall.

Boom!

An explosion rang in the air as one of the golden circles exploded, disappearing with the wind.

The entire place was silent again. Nothing could be seen at all at the place where Chen Zhu was standing. Not a single trace of him was left behind.

Meanwhile, the remaining four Taiji Golden Mudras shot toward the horizon!

The female cultivators around the red chariot were stunned. It took a while for them to regain their senses and discover that they had fallen into a disadvantageous position.

They frowned and shouted, "The audacity!"

Four of them instantly began to make hand seals to deal with the four approaching golden circles.

With the spot that Chen Zhu was standing at before his death as the center, the Taiji golden symbols spread in all directions for 10 meters. The witchcraft Formation under everyone's feet was also covered by the golden light.

Ding Fanqiu's gaze was calm. In the cultivation world, a cultivator would at least need a cultivation base in the Seven-leaf Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm to cast these Daoist Mudras. On top of that, they were caught in the witchcraft Formation. This meant one would have to fight against the spell's corrosion as well. Just how powerful was this strongest expert under the heavens?

Compared to the colossal energy seal, Ding Fanqiu's Daoist Mudras were as insignificant as ants. He had never seen such shocking Daoist Mudras in his entire life. Based on his knowledge, those who were capable of casting Daoist Mudras like these were Daoist Grandmasters! He wanted to laugh at himself for impersonating someone like this.

Meanwhile, the four female cultivators hovering in the air had a determined expression on their faces. They were confident they could dispel these Taiji Golden Mudras. Unfortunately, when they launched their energy blasts, all they did was create faint ripples on the Mudras that seemed as vast as the ocean themselves. It was futile.

"A Daoist Grandmaster?" They exclaimed in shock as they looked at the shining golden Taiji symbols that were flying toward them.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The moment the four golden circles caught them, they exploded and disappeared like fireworks. After the brilliant display, they turned into clouds of smoke and disappeared with the wind.

"..."

"..."

An incredulous expression could be seen on everyone's faces at this moment.

"Ding! Killed three Nascent Divinity Tribulation targets and two Divine Court realm targets. Rewarded with 3,700 merit points."

'Fortunately, I didn't suffer any loss.' After making the calculations, Lu Zhou discovered Chen Zhu alone was worth 1,500 points. However, he did not earn much. He had spent 2,000 merit points earlier after all. He stroked his beard as he surveyed his surroundings. 'I didn't want to attack him, but...'

It was easy for a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm elite archer like Chen Zhu to fire three arrows per second. Lu Zhou could not parry them all with Critical Block Cards. Moreover, he would probably have to waste his Impeccable Cards as well, on top of that. Rather than wasting his precious resources, it was easier to do things this way.

Apart from that, there was no place for the Other Tribes under Great Yan's skies. Unlike the Triverso, the Bai people branched out from the Great Yan citizens over the generations. After several millennia of surviving, they set down their roots here. They were aboriginals. The Triverso, on the other hand, was an Other Tribe since ancient times.

'Dear emperor, what kind of people do you keep around you? Do you know that a person from the Other Tribe has infiltrated the palace? If only more of them would come here as well...'

Unfortunately, elites of this caliber were not raised in farms.

For some unknown reason, after Chen Zhu was killed, the Grand Witchcraft Formation began to weaken.

The bright-red flying chariot began to fall as well without the support of the four female cultivators.

The situation on the ground was chaotic as the soldiers frantically tried to escape.

'The elite from the palace is so easily killed?' The soldiers felt as though they were dreaming, finding this difficult to accept.

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou continued to look at the flying chariot. For an elite like Chen Zhu, one of the Three Godly Archers, to acknowledge someone as his master, the master would certainly not be weak.

Boom!

The flying chart crashed on the ground, raising a cloud of dust.

After the Grand Witchcraft Formation weakened, their vision became clear. At this moment, everyone's attention was focused on the bright-red flying chariot.

Chapter 104: I Have Always Been Merciful

The red flying chariot was in pieces now. If there had been an elite in it, it would not have crashed to the ground. This meant there was no one in the bright-red flying chariot in the first place! There was no so-called expert in there at all!

After waiting for a moment, nobody emerged from the rubble.

Lu Zhou nodded as he stroked his beard. "Empty?" Fortunately, he had expected this when he used his five cards. The situation was still within his control. If a group of Divine Court realm cultivators had charged at him, he would have had a hard time dealing with it.

Little Yuan'er appeared delighted. She was the first one to break the silence. She giggled and said, "You're amazing, master!"

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said calmly, "How are you feeling?"

"I'm alright... I felt slightly dizzy earlier, but I feel much better now," Little Yuan'er said as she walked toward Lu Zhou.

'Is the Supreme Purity Jade Slip capable of repelling witchcraft?' Lu Zhou wondered.

The light purple glow from the witchcraft Formation had almost disappeared now. There were still soldiers and cultivators around them who were waiting to attack.

Lu Zhou was not worried. After all, the remaining people were powerless to make him stay. He shifted his attention to Ding Fanqiu.

At this moment, Ding Fanqiu was coughing violently.

Lu Zhou continued to stare at Ding Fanqiu. Initially, he had intended to buy a Deadly Strike Card to deal with Ding Fanqiu immediately. However, when he saw that Ding Fanqiu was injured and afflicted by the witchcraft spell that greatly weakened his cultivation base, he changed his mind. With his hands on his back, he approached Ding Fanqiu. With Chen Zhu dead, he had no choice but to try and get information from Ding Fanqiu. Whether he had to resort to torture or intimidation, he was certain he would be able to get something out of Ding Fanqiu.

Upon seeing Lu Zhou walking toward him, Ding Fanqiu struggled to sit up with great difficulty. He endured the pain from the arrow to his chest and kneeled before he pleaded, "This junior has eyes but couldn't see clearly. Please forgive me, senior!" As soon as he finished speaking, he was in a coughing fit again. The air he had put on earlier when he was impersonating Ji Tiandao could no longer be seen.

'Senior?' Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded. His expression was indifferent as he said, "I think it's strange for you to address me as your senior."

Ding Fanqiu endured the pain in his chest and said, "It's unforgivable for me to impersonate you. However, I must still thank you for killing Chen Zhu, and thus, avenging my disciple." He shot his two disciples a meaningful look as soon as he finished speaking.

Upon seeing this, Ding Fanqiu's two disciples quickly got on their knees and kowtowed at Lu Zhou.

"Thank you, senior!"

"Thank you, senior!"

"Ding! You have been kowtowed at. Reward: 2 merit points."

'Insincere and petty hypocrites.' There was no change of expression on Lu Zhou's old face. He showed no happiness and anger as he stroked his beard and said, "I have some questions for you, and you'll answer them truthfully."

"I will tell you anything and everything I know!"

"Very good." Lu Zhou gave it some thought before asking, "Tell me your true identity."

Ding Fanqiu no longer dared to continue acting. He replied, "I'm Ding Fanqiu from Great Yan's Yun Sect. These three are truly my disciples."

Little Yuan'er scoffed before she said, "Aren't you ashamed of yourselves for impersonating the Evil Sky Pavilion when you're so weak?"

Ding Fanqiu was rendered speechless. A Five-leaf avatar was not weak.

"Why did you impersonate the Evil Sky Pavilion?" Lu Zhou asked as he stroked his beard.

Ding Fanqiu hesitated slightly before he finally said, "In response to your question, senior, many of the Yun, Tian, and Luo Sects' disciples were killed by the Evil Sky Pavilion. Centuries ago, the Evil Sky Pavilion destroyed several thousand of weapons of the three sects, dealing a heavy blow to our foundations. Since then, we've never been able to truly recover. I was ordered to..." He paused at this moment,

"Say it," Lu Zhou barked.

"I was ordered to impersonate the master of the Evil Sky Pavilion and commit crimes everywhere," Ding Fanqiu reluctantly replied.

Lu Zhou shook his head and sighed softly. "Yun Sect is the head of the three sects. A grand sect of the Noble Path is resorting to such despicable methods?"

"The Evil Sky Pavilion has committed so many evil deeds. I was only ordered to give them a taste of their own medicine!"

Swoosh!

A wave of energy sailed toward Ding Fanqiu at this moment.

Smack!

It hit Ding Fanqiu on the face. Five fingerprints appeared on his cheek, bringing with it a burning and stinging pain.

"Senior, you..." Ding Fanqiu stumbled back. He did not know what to do. However, he knew he did not dare to retaliate even if he was given a chance.

"I'll ask you again, what's the secret behind that bone?"

After receiving a slap, Ding Fanqiu became much more subservient. He cradled his cheek as he said, "There's a bone from the Bai people that can help a cultivator overcome the great limitation of a thousand years!" A confused expression could be seen on his face as he ventured softly, "Senior, with your knowledge and experience, you must've heard of this before."

‘A bone from the Bai people that’s capable of overcoming the life limit of the cultivation world?’ Lu Zhou searched his memories again. Since Ji Tiandao lived for a thousand years and traveled across the lands, it was impossible for him to have no recollection of this matter. He fumbled through his memories for a while, but he found nothing. He decided to give up and continued interrogating Ding Fanqiu. “Has this bone been found?”

Ding Fanqiu shook his head and said, “The palace has searched continuously for a decade and has not found it. The chances are even slimmer for us to find it.”

Little Yuan’er snorted and said, “Fools... Nobody can overcome the life limit. The owner of the bone died, and yet, you’re hoping the bone can help you overcome your life limit. What a joke!”

Ding Fanqiu was rendered speechless again by Little Yuan’er’s words.

Lu Zhou was reminded of Emperor Qin from earth. The emperor scoured the lands for a way to extend his lifespan. The people of the cultivation world had never lived past the limit. However, there was bound to be those who were unwilling to bow down to fate and wanted to try. ‘Could it be that Great Yan’s Emperor is also unwilling to submit to the limit of his lifespan?’

While Lu Zhou was lost in his thoughts, the soldiers and low-ranked cultivators on the jetty began to close in on them. There were several thousand soldiers and hundreds of cultivators in the Sense Condensing realm, Brahman Sea realm, and the Divine court realm.

“They’ve been affected by the witchcraft Formation. They’re powerless now. Don’t be afraid.”

“Trespassers will be executed on the spot!”

Lu Zhou’s expression remained indifferent when he saw the incoming soldiers and cultivators.

Little Yuan’er flexed her limbs and said, “Master, let me handle them.”

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, “There’s no need for that.”

“Huh?” A confused expression appeared on Little Yuan’er’s face.

“Bi An.” Two fists were no match for four limbs after all.

Although Little Yuan’er was powerful, it would still be asking a lot of her to completely defeat thousands of soldiers and hundreds of cultivators.

Bi An emerged from the forest as soon as Lu Zhou called its name.

The soldiers and cultivators turned back to look when they heard the sounds of growling from behind them.

“What’s that?”

“A tiger?”

“How can a tiger be here?”

The soldiers and cultivators were still confused when Bi An approached them, its figure could be seen with increasing clarity.

As expected, Bi An was not affected by witchcraft.

“This...”

“A beast?”

Bi An roared loudly, the sound of it resounded throughout the forest.

The soldiers’ knees knocked against each other from fear and shock. It was apparent now that what they had thought was an ordinary beast was actually an extremely powerful beast. Only a powerful human cultivator could tame such a ferocious beast and turn it into a mount.

At this moment, Bi An charged at the crowd! Mightiness and meekness formed a stark contrast! For a time, severed limbs flew everywhere.

“Run!”

“Retreat!”

“Divine Court realm cultivators! Assemble!”

The cultivators with cultivation bases in the Brahman Sea realm and below had no choice but to retreat.

Meanwhile, the soldiers could not even withstand a single blow. They were all sent flying.

Bi An’s formidable combat strength was completely displayed before these insignificant humans.

The Divine Court realm cultivators launched their Mudras and flying swords.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The attacks from the Divine Court realm cultivators did not affect Bi An, it only served to anger Bi An.

Rarrggh!

Bi An went berserk! It leaped into the air and pounced at the cultivators! One should not forget that, unlike Elephant King, Bi An could fly!

“No way! A flying beast!”

Crack!

The cultivator who had spoken did not even have time to react before his bones were broken with just a single strike from Bi An.

Bi An continued to rampage through the crowd, it was chaotic. Without a leader and discipline, the soldiers and cultivators were like a tray of loose pearls. In the end, the thousands of soldiers could only retreat in fear.

“Fall back!”

“It’s not affected by witchcraft! How’s that possible?!”

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Bi An took out a soldier with every swipe of its claw. It was extremely ferocious.

The soldiers would not have been so afraid of a human. After all, they could whittle away at a human's strength. However, they were facing a beast at this moment. Moreover, this beast seemed like it did not even know what exhaustion meant!

'The mortals are truly pitiful...' With this thought in mind, Lu Zhou gestured for Bi An to attack the cultivators. "I've always been merciful. Leave the mortals alone. Deal with the cultivators.'

Ding Fanqiu. "???"

His two disciples. "???"

Chapter 105: Disciples as Reinforcement

Lu Zhou's words sounded insincere. However, if the old senior wanted to say that, there was nothing Ding Fanqiu could do but nod along.

Meanwhile, Little Yuan'er was applauding and cheering. Bi An's combat prowess truly exceeded everyone's expectations.

Many of the mortal soldiers were firing arrows from below, but their arrows could only scratch Bi An's hide.

After Lu Zhou gave his order, Bi An no longer pursued the soldiers. It launched itself into the sky. This scene seemed like a recording from the game 'Snakes'.

"Ding! Killed a Brahman Sea realm target. Reward: 20 merit points."

"Ding! Killed a Sense Condensing realm target. Reward: 5 merit points."

"Ding! Killed an early-stage Divine Court realm target. Reward: 100 merit points."

Lu Zhou nodded. He was pleased. Bi An's combat strength was truly impressive. With Bi An's help, he knew it would be easier for him to earn merit points in the future.

Ding Fanqiu stared at the scene with his mouth agape. 'This... This is a legendary mount?' Compared to it, Elephant King was like trash. At this moment, Elephant King was lying weakly on the ground as it made several meek attempts to struggle. It was not in the same league as Bi An at all. He could only shake his head helplessly.

Bi An cleared away the low-ranked cultivators in a short time. Most of the soldiers and cultivators had retreated.

When Lu Zhou saw it was almost over, he waved his arm and commanded Bi An to return. He had earned 800 merit points from this. It was not a lot. After all, these were only weak cultivators.

Bi An obeyed Lu Zhou's order. When it passed by Elephant King near the jetty, it looked down at Elephant King disdainfully from the corners of its eyes.

Elephant King shrunk back slightly in fear as its body trembled. It was meek and subservient in front of Bi An. This was the difference between a legendary mount and an epic mount. It would not be too bad if they were not compared. However, once comparison had been made, it could clearly be seen that the difference was as vast as heaven and earth.

Bi An sat on its hinds majestically next to Bi Lu Zhou and Little Yuan'er. From time to time, it would bare its fangs, preventing the cultivators from coming closer.

At the same time, the effects of the Grand Witchcraft Formation continued to fade.

Lu Zhou frowned slightly. He did not understand why these soldiers and cultivators were still hanging around. 'Aren't they afraid of dying?' He was going to continue interrogating Ding Fanqiu when two individuals flew toward him at breakneck speed. The auras these two people exuded caught everyone's attention.

"Did the palace send so many elites?" Lu Zhou was baffled by this new development.

The two figures continued to move at top speed before they came to a halt, hovering above the Grand Witchcraft Formation.

When Little Yuan'er had a clear look at the two newcomers, she jumped with joy and called out, "Third Senior Brother! Fourth Senior Brother!"

Lu Zhou looked up. Indeed, it was Duanmu Sheng and Mingshi Yin.

Duanmu Sheng wielded his Overlord Spear. He appeared majestic with his muscular body and sharp eyes. He looked like a god who had descended on earth.

Meanwhile, Mingshi Yin who was dressed in gray robes looked strangely at ease and confident. He was smiling broadly at this moment.

"Master!" Both of them descended at the same time. As soon as they descended, a mighty shockwave rippled out.

The remnants of the witchcraft Formation were instantly dispelled by Lu Zhou's two disciples who were in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm. With the disappearance of the Formation, the air cleared, and their visions returned.

Duanmu Sheng and Mingshi Yin hurried over before they fell to their knees and greeted Lu Zhou, "Master!"

Ding Fanqiu was stunned speechless by their amazing entrance. When he regained his senses, he turned to look at his two fake disciples. 'There's too great of a difference between the real deal and the counterfeits!'

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and asked, "Why did both of you come?"

Mingshi Yin bowed and said, "Master, I've obtained some information from Fan Xiuwen. He said there's a Grand Witchcraft Formation here that's personally maintained by the elites from the palace. Therefore, I went to look for Third Senior Brother and came here as reinforcements."

Duanmu Sheng chimed in, "There are many elites within the palace. I know your strength is peerless, master, and those people are not worthy of being in your presence. However, there's no need for you to waste your energy on small fries, master."

"Please forgive us for taking matters into our own hands," Mingshi Yin said.

Lu Zhou glanced at Mingshi Yin. 'Ever since this fellow has seen the Separation Hook, he has become much more motivated. He's also more cautious compared to before.' If he had known they were coming, he would have saved the five item cards. Alas, there was no use crying over spilled milk. In the end, he only stroked his beard as he said indifferently, "It doesn't matter."

Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng finally rose to their feet and surveyed their surroundings.

The effects from the Grand Witchcraft Formation were practically gone.

The jetty, post-battle, was a complete mess. Bodies were strewn everywhere haphazardly.

Mingshi Yin felt awkward. 'I think we were late.'

Little Yuan'er ran over while giggling and said, "Third Senior Brother, Fourth Senior Brother, look at these two counterfeits!"

"Counterfeits?" Mingshi Yin was confused for a moment. When he realized what Little Yuan'er meant, he was displeased. He strode over to the young man who resembled him and was lying limply on the ground.

Bzzt –

Mingshi Yin's Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar appeared!

"..." The young man was dumbfounded.

Mingshi Yin spoke, "How dare you impersonate me?"

At this moment, Duanmu Sheng walked over as well. He was about to unleash his Hundred Tribulations Insight avatar as well when Mingshi Yin raised a hand to stop him.

Mingshi Yin said, "Uh, Senior Brother, the Overlord Spear is enough. There's no need for you to..." If his senior brother unleashed his One-leaf avatar, his leafless avatar would pale in comparison.

Ding Fanqiu's disciple shuddered. He hastily begged for mercy. The one who impersonated Duanmu Sheng was too weak to even beg for mercy, He only prostrated himself on the ground as his body trembled violently.

"That's enough," Lu Zhou said calmly.

As soon as Lu Zhou spoke, Mingshi Yin obediently recalled his avatar.

Ding Fanqiu was inwardly shocked. Indeed, the counterfeits' levels were too low. With how talented the disciples of the Evil Sky Pavilion were, how could they not have any breakthrough after such a long time?

"Don't worry, master. When I left Golden Court Mountain, I gave Fan Xiuwen another round of beating. I'm sure he'll be very cooperative from now on."

“...”

‘Golden Court Mountain is protected by the barrier anyway. Outsiders can’t possibly get in. He’s really overdoing it.’ However, Lu Zhou did not chide Mingshi Yin.

Without the interference from the Grand Witchcraft Formation, the soldiers, and the cultivators, Lu Zhou approached Ding Fanqiu again.

Ding Fanqiu looked up at Lu Zhou and asked, “Fan Xiuwen is in the Evil Sky Pavilion?”

“It’s not your place to ask questions...” Mingshi Yin said with a growl.

Ding Fanqiu’s wizened face flushed red.

Lu Zhou placed his hands on his back and asked, “Since you’re from the Yun Sect, who sent you?”

“Uh...” Ding Fanqiu stammered. He seemed to be reluctant to divulge the truth.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, “After this incident, you might be killed to ensure your silence. You’re bringing disaster upon yourself.”

Ding Fangqiu muttered to himself for a moment. Indeed. At this point, he had gone past the point of no return. Moreover, Lu Zhou had helped him avenge his female disciple. In the end, he said, “Hua Wudao, the elder of Yun Sect’s Enforcement Hall.”

“Hua Wudao?” Mingshi Yin’s eyes widened as he said, “That old fart’s still alive?”

Ding Fanqiu said, “Elder Hua has held a grudge against old senior ever since old senior had defeated him. It has become an obsession and a knot in his heart, causing him to be unable to make any progress in his cultivation base, so...”

“What a shameless prick! He’s only got himself to blame for being weak. How dare he blame someone else for being too powerful!” Mingshi Yin cursed.

“...”

Only someone from the Evil Sky Pavilion would say something like that.

Back then, Hua Wudao was a Six-leaf Golden Lotus Avatar elite, and he specialized in defense. Even the ten great elites did not dare to underestimate him. He prided himself on his defensive skills. 20 years ago, he declared that he had the best defense under the heavens. At that time, there had been no movements from the Evil Sky Pavilion, and it seemed like the Evil Sky Pavilion’s strength was waning. He wanted to seize the chance and defeat Ji Tiandao to level up to a Seven-leaf Avatar.

However, on the plains of Jing Province, Hua Wudao and Ji Tiandao had only exchanged one blow that ended in Hua Wudao’s humiliating defeat. After all, at that time, Ji Tiandao was already an Eight-leaf cultivator. Since that day, Hua Wudao became the laughingstock among the people on the Noble Path. This became a knot in Hua Wudao’s heart, causing his cultivation base to stagnate in the past 20 years!

Lu Zhou asked, “Where’s Hua Wudao now?”

“Elder Hua has gone to the Green Jade Altar three days ago,” Ding Fanqiu hesitated slightly before continuing, “It’s said that he has gone there to discuss an alliance to defeat the Evil Sky Pavilion. He... He knows about the matter regarding the palace fishing up bones from the river more than I do.”

Lu Zhou remembered Jiang Aijian’s letter. The Fiend Temple Master seemed to have gone to the Green Jade Altar as well. ‘These people are planning to gang up on the Evil Sky Pavilion?’

Chapter 106: The Green Jade Altar

The Fiend Temple’s Zuo Xinchuan was killed by Lu Zhou. It was only natural that Ren Buping wanted to avenge Zuo Xinchuan. However, Lu Zhou did not expect Ren Buping would work with the Righteous Sect for the sake of revenge.

The Noble and Fiend Paths had never worked together since time immemorial. After all, the Fiend Temple was not far behind in committing crimes compared to the Evil Sky Pavilion. Zuo Xinchuan alone was ranked third on the blacklist.

The Fiend Temple had absorbed many smaller factions over the years and had become a force to reckon with. When their elite, whom they had gone through much trouble to train, died in the Evil Sky Pavilion’s hands, it was only natural that they felt discontented.

Lu Zhou said with no inflection in his tone, “Since they want to deal with me, I should just head to the Green Jade Altar directly.”

Upon hearing Lu Zhou’s words, Mingshi Yin said in a voice that lacked confidence, “Master, the Green Jade Altar is the Righteous Sect’s territory. I’m afraid...”

Lu Zhou glanced at Mingshi Yin and said, “Mingshi Yin.”

“Yes, master.” Mingshi Yin’s heart hammered against his ribcage. Having one’s full name spoken was not a pleasant feeling.

“Are you afraid?” Lu Zhou asked.

Many years ago, when Mingshi Yin had not entered the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm, he had run into Zhang Qiuchu, an elite from the Righteous Sect, when he was roaming the lands and causing trouble. Mingshi Yin was defeated, and he had been traumatized by that incident since then. However, his trauma was not as severe as Yun Sect’s Hua Wudao’s trauma that created a knot in his heart and caused his cultivation base to stagnate.

“Why would I be afraid?” Mingshi Yin asked.

“That’s good, then.” Lu Zhou nodded indifferently.

Based on their perception in regard to cultivation, Mingshi Yin was, in fact, more talented than Duanmu Sheng. Duanmu Sheng had joined the pavilion much earlier than Mingshi Yin. However, Duanmu Sheng was currently not much stronger than Mingshi Yin. Mingshi Yin had too many distracting thoughts and his intentions were not pure, therefore, his avatar did not sprout any leaves yet ever since he entered the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm. Although they were both in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation

realm, if one's avatar had no leaves, one was not regarded as a genuine cultivator in the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm. With the addition of every leaf, a cultivator's strength would improve dramatically.

"Junior Brother, this is a great opportunity. Your 20-foot avatar is truly embarrassing." Duanmu Sheng patted Mingshi Yin's shoulder.

Mingshi Yin seemed to wither instantly. He muttered, "That's unfair..."

Little Yuan'er waved her fist and said, "Master, there's also that Zhang Yuanshan! You should kill him! I can't stand that man for cursing you every single day!"

Lu Zhou glanced at Little Yuan'er. He wanted to reprimand her, but when he recalled Zhang Yuanshan's face, indeed, he found Zhang Yuanshan's face despicable.

When Ji Tiandao's battle with the 10 great elites ended in a draw, he had returned to the Evil Sky Pavilion, wounded. The second attack on Golden Court Mountain was led by Zhang Yuanshan. That person was extremely cunning! If Luo Changfeng, the Sect Master of Heavenly Sword Sect, was not so ostentatious, the one who had died would be Zhang Yuanshan. When Luo Changfeng died, Zhang Yuanshan was the first to flee. When the incident was blown over, he came out again and publicly slandered Ji Tiandao.

Lu Zhou was certain Zhang Yuanshan was somehow involved in this secret meeting at the Green Jade Altar. After a while, he turned his attention back to Ding Fanqiu. "Do you know who's behind the destruction of Fish Dragon Village?"

Ding Fanqiu was puzzled. 'Weren't you the one who destroyed the village, old senior?' This information was given to him by the Yun Sect. He had even sent someone to investigate the palace. In the end, he confirmed that the culprit of the Fish Dragon Village's destruction was none other than the old man standing before him. Therefore, he was confused when he heard Lu Zhou's question. He did not know how he should reply to Lu Zhou.

Lu Zhou said, "Do you think I'm the culprit as well?"

"I... I don't dare!"

At this point, Lu Zhou knew there was nothing left to learn from Ding Fanqiu. It was apparent that Ding Fanqiu did not know who the mastermind of this plot was.

'If they're capable of keeping these things a secret for a decade, they must be very skilled. They're definitely not ordinary people.' After a while, Lu Zhou waved his hand and said, "Take him away."

"Yes, master." Mingshi Yin was the first to reply.

"What about them?" Little Yuan'er pointed at the two counterfeits who were lying limply on the ground. They were the two young men who had impersonated Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng. When she pointed at them, they were once again frightened. They shrunk backward immediately.

Mingshi Yin's lips curled upward as he said, "It's alright to impersonate me, but it'll be difficult for you to escape death after defaming my master!"

“So, do we kill them?” Little Yuan’er asked.

“Mhm, I agree to have them killed. Cut them in half, that’s the best way!” Duanmu Sheng chimed in with a nod.

“I don’t think that’s enough. Let’s cut them into eight pieces. Some elite cultivators are especially cunning. They’ll only die when you’ve cut them up thoroughly.”

“...” Ding Fanqiu was rendered speechless from the shock. ‘These are the real villains!’ After all these years, they had only been impersonating their appearances. They had failed to master the essence of these villains. Every word that came out from the devils’ mouths made them shudder in fear!

Ding Fanqiu’s expression was grim as he mustered up his courage to say, “Impersonating the Evil Sky Pavilion is my sin and mine alone. Please let them go, senior.”

Mingshi Yin said with a smile, “I see that you’re willing to own up to your actions. Alas... Even if my master spares them, do you think they can continue living? They’ve been afflicted by the witchcraft trap. Their cultivation bases will deteriorate sooner or later. This spell is very difficult to break, unless... you’re thinking of begging my master for help?”

“Uh...” Ding Fanqiu’s heart sank. There was no way he would be bold enough to beg this grand patriarch of the Fiend Path.

Lu Zhou did not concern himself with these two small fries. His fourth disciple, Mingshi Yin, was right. These two counterfeits would most likely die. He glanced at the sky. ‘It’s almost time...’

Lu Zhou was about to call out to Bi An when he saw a messenger bird flying toward him from the horizons.

Little Yuan’er recognized it right away. She raised her hand, and the messenger bird obediently placed a letter in her hand. She said, “Master, it’s a letter from that shameless guy again.

Lu Zhou, naturally, knew who Little Yuan’er was referring to when she said, ‘that shameless guy’. He said, “Read it.”

Little Yuan’er opened the letter and read aloud, “Old senior, you told me to investigate the Fish Dragon Village, but this will take time. However, I can provide you with the latest information; it’s best if you don’t go to the Green Jade Altar. The Evil King, your eighth disciple, is lying in wait outside the Green Jade Altar. Finally, how amazing is the sword that you promised me?”

After Little Yuan’er finished reading the letter, Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng’s expressions turned sour.

“I think Old Eighth hasn’t had enough the last time! How dare he lie in wait to attack master with his cultivation base?”

“That master-deceiving, patriarch-destroying scum. I’ll head over there and skin him alive right now!”

Lu Zhou raised a hand, interrupting his two disciples’ tirade. He said calmly, “Old Eighth has always been one to bully the weak and fear the strong. With his abilities, I don’t think he’s bold enough to try and ambush me.”

Mingshi Yin asked in confusion, "Then, what's he doing, lying in wait at the Green Jade Altar?"

"The Righteous Sect has always regarded itself as a member of the Noble Path. Although Old Eighth has left the Evil Sky Pavilion, the Noble Path won't share the same opinion. The Nether Sect, the Crouching Dragon Darknet, and even Old Eighth's Tiger Ridge Gang are their targets. I reckon Old Eighth is trying to get revenge with this opportunity." Duanmu Sheng analyzed the matter confidently.

"You have a point, but... I still think that Old Eighth doesn't have the balls for this. Seventh Junior Brother must be the one behind this," Mingshi Yin said.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "How powerful is Old Eighth's organization?"

Mingshi Yin nodded and said, "Old Eighth's personal strength is nothing much to speak of, but he has a group of trusted subordinates who listens to him. They're everywhere in the streets. The truly terrifying thing in this world aren't cultivators with profound cultivation bases, but the hearts of the people. War is what is truly terrifying!"

This had been the case since ancient times. Although fights between cultivators resulted in casualties, the lives lost were a far cry from the pain that war brought to the civilians.

Little Yuan'er interjected, "Eighth Senior Brother is trying to start a war?"

Lu Zhou shook his head. He waved his arm and said, "All of you, come with me to the Green Jade Altar!"

"Yes, master!" Duanmu Sheng, Mingshi Yin, and Little Yuan'er answered in unison.

Chapter 107: Old Eighth, The Rascal!

Lu Zhou waved at Bi An.

The ferocious and terrifying Bi An instantly became extremely docile. It retracted its fangs and lowered its body.

Lu Zhou leaped onto Bi An's back easily. "Yuan'er."

"Coming." Little Yuan'er thought that she would not be allowed on the mount. She hastily leaped on Bi An as well.

At this moment, Mingshi Yin remembered the legendary mount, Whitzard. He said tentatively, "Master... what about us?"

"Bring him with you and fly on your own," Lu Zhou said indifferently as he pointed at Ding Fanqiu.

"..."

While Mingshi Yin was still stunned by his master's answer, Lu Zhou ordered Bi An to leave, and Bi An leaped into the air. It did not take long before they disappeared into the horizons like a gust of wind. He was a beat too late as he bowed and replied, "Yes, master. I'll fly with all my..."

Duanmu Sheng shook his head and said, "Don't look at me... I'm flying on my own as well."

“Third Senior Brother, that’s not what I meant... Your strength and cultivation base are better than mine, and you’re faster. So, you should bring this fellow along. That way we won’t be a burden to master,” Mingshi Yin said with a smile.

Duanmu Sheng stroked his chin and said, “You’ve got a point. In that case, carry my Overlord Spear.” He tossed the Overlord Spear over to Mingshi Yin as soon as he finished speaking. He strode over to Ding Fanqiu and lifted Ding Fanqiu with one hand before he leaped into the sky as well.

“Eh? Junior Brother, what’re you standing around for?”

“It’s nothing! I’m coming right away!” Mingshi Yin circulated his Primal Qi and leaped into the air. He muttered under his breath, “I think I still ended up with the shorter end of the stick...”

The Overlord Spear weighed at least 100 catties. After it had acknowledged its master and its weapon-grade was activated, its quality improved and its weight increased several times as well.

Mingshi Yin thought to himself with a sigh, ‘It would’ve been better if I carried that Ding Fanqiu!’

At this moment, the jetty was completely silent.

Elephant King only managed to get back onto its feet after Bi An left. It walked toward Ding Fanqiu’s two disciples. However, as soon as it stepped forward, a witchcraft trap suddenly shot up to the Measure Heaven River’s surface. It froze for a moment before turning tail and running into the forest.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

It ran at an unprecedented speed and vanished into the forest in record time.

The witchcraft trap on the river’s surface grew at an alarming speed. It did not take long before it covered the entire jetty along with Ding Fanqiu’s two disciples.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou and Little Yuan’er were speeding toward the Green Jade Altar on Bi An’s back.

“Master, should we wait for senior brothers?” Little Yuan’er asked.

“No need.” With Bi An’s speed, it would only take them four hours, at most, to reach the Green Jade Altar. He wanted some time to organize his thoughts and prepare for any unforeseen scenarios. He opened the system dashboard and saw he had 4,812 merit points now.

“Items,” Lu Zhou called inwardly. When the interface appeared, he frowned slightly.

Deadly Strike’s price was now 600 points!

“Damnit!” Lu Zhou could not help but curse upon seeing this.

“What’s wrong, master? Did someone make you angry again? I’ll go capture him and cut him into eight pieces!” When Little Yuan’er turned around, she saw Lu Zhou bristling in anger.

Lu Zhou regained his composure and waved his hand dismissively. He continued thinking to himself, ‘Deadly Strike’s price has gone up, but Impeccable Cards’ price is still 500 points. The fluctuation in price

must have something to do with the frequency of purchase. Perhaps, the system thinks the cards are too powerful that's why the price is increased as a restriction?'

Previously, Lu Zhou did not frequently use Deadly Strike Cards, hence, he did not trigger the increase in price. As expected, there was a catch to such powerful cards. After all, if the price had remained at 500 points, he could kill every Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm elites under the heavens until he was the only one left with the Deadly Strike Cards alone. With that, he would even be earning twice the number of merit points he had spent.

'As expected, the system won't allow me to exploit this loophole! Fortunately, the price increase isn't too much. I can still accept this.' Lu Zhou made a mental note to not rely on item cards too much. He had to improve his strength as soon as possible.

With that in mind, Lu Zhou still bought another Deadly Strike Card as a spare. 'I'll have to be more mindful of using Deadly Strike Cards after this. In this case, maybe I should start using defensive item cards in the future.'

Lu Zhou scrolled down.

New cards appeared on the item card column.

"Critical Heal: Heals 30% of wounds. Price: 300 merit points."

"Thunderblast: Activates thunder energy Primal Qi. Hit rate: 50%; Damage rate: 30%; Critical damage rate: 10%; Kill rate: 1%. Price: 100 merit points."

'These are practically useless. With my current skills, who can harm me now? Useless cards. As for the second card, it's even more useless. With a 1% kill rate, it's being sold at 100 merit points. How can it compare to Deadly Strike? Useless!'

Lu Zhou discovered that the newer item cards were getting more and more useless. After doing some research, he also realized that apart from purchasing avatars, the lucky draws seemed to be a more worthwhile way to spend his merit points. However, this was not the time to be trying the lucky draw.

"Master, we're almost at the Green Jade Altar." Little Yuan'er pointed at the huge building up ahead. The round Green Jade Altar was on top of the building. It was like an incense furnace that stood between heavens and earth.

The Righteous Sect worshipped the heavens and respected the earth. Every time they opened their doors to recruit disciples or teach them their cultivation methods and skills, they would do it on the Green Jade Altar. The Green Jade Altar was surrounded by dense forests on all sides.

"Head east," Lu Zhou ordered.

"Master, why are we heading east?" Little Yuan'er asked curiously.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "Since the rascal, Zhu Honggong, is lying in wait here, I'll use this opportunity to capture him."

Little Yuan'er nodded as if she was a chick pecking for grain. "I'll help you teach that traitor a lesson, master!"

Bi An moved at an incredible speed. In just a blink of an eye, they arrived in the forest on the eastern side of the Green Jade Altar.

Old Eighth's followers were mostly low-ranked cultivators and mortals. If they wanted to take down the Green Jade Altar, they would have to use their wits. However, it might be speaking too highly of Old Eighth to even think that he could outwit anyone. For this reason, Lu Zhou was certain Si Wuya was the one giving out instructions from behind the scenes.

The Green Jade Altar was elevated and isolated.

'In that case... Fire is the best course of action.' The eastern part of the forest was an ideal place to start a fire. As soon as Lu Zhou made up his mind, he urged Bi An to the most ideal spot.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Sounds of intense fighting could be heard in the forest at this moment.

"Hm?" Lu Zhou stopped, feeling suspicious.

"Master, they've started fighting!" Little Yuan'er pointed at the cultivators among the trees.

They were all low-ranked cultivators. Their capacity to do harm was limited.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and said, "I think the rascal's plans have been seen through."

Little Yuan'er sounded impatient now as she said, "Master, quick, let's go down... I want to fight as well!"

"Impudent!" Lu Zhou raised his voice. 'I might be spoiling this young girl too much lately. She's getting unrulier.'

When Lu Zhou raised his voice, Little Yuan'er's shoulders drooped, and she said obediently, "I was wrong."

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The battle was chaotic. More and more cultivators joined in the fray. The disciples of the Green Jade Altar appeared in small groups, and they wore navy-blue robes. The opposition was being pushed back as their casualties rose.

At the moment Lu Zhou was about to descend, two figures shot past him at breakneck speed from below. One of the figures was quicker than the other.

Lu Zhou recognized one of the figures immediately. The one in the lead was none other than the Evil Sky Pavilion's eighth disciple, Zhu Honggong. He traveled far and wide to look for Zhu Honggong, to think Zhu Honggong would deliver himself into his hand.

"Rascal!" Lu Zhou flicked a Binding Cage Card without hesitation! A golden cage shot out of his palm and dropped down immediately.

At the same time, Old Eighth, Zhu Honggong, suddenly felt a strange and dangerous energy closing in on him. He instinctively looked up, and his mind instantly turned blank! "No way! Ma-master? I'm dead!"

Chapter 108: Of Captures and Lucky Draws

If a person had bad luck, even the gaps between their teeth would be clogged if they were only drinking cold water. Zhu Honggong felt that he was especially unlucky right now. He did not expect to run into his master at the Green Jade Altar so it was only natural that he was shocked and frightened.

At the same time, the cultivator who was chasing after Zhu Honggong came to a halt and looked up.

A square cage fell from the air and sailed toward Zhu Honggong.

‘I think it’s going to hit. My luck is good right now.’ Lu Zhou nodded in satisfaction. He mumbled, “I should’ve tried the lucky draw...”

“Master, what are you trying to draw?”

Lu Zhou ignored Little Yuan’er. His attention was completely focused on the Binding Cage Card. A small frown appeared on his face when he saw the cage that had grown alarmingly big suddenly took a nosedive and disappeared completely. Yes, it vanished!

The cultivators who witnessed this were dumbfounded.

Lu Zhou’s expression was dark. The card had cost him 200 merit points, and it was wasted just like that.

‘Should I use another one? What if I miss again? This card only has a 30% chance of hitting after all. If they miss over and over again, I’ll be wasting too many of my merit points.’

While Lu Zhou was deliberating his options, Old Eighth, Zhu Honggong, was elated. He muttered to himself, “It seems like master intends to let me go!”

‘I’d better run, quick!’ Zhu Honggong dove deeper into the forest at lightning speed. His speed was comparable to a Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm cultivator!

Lu Zhou had the legendary mount, Bi An. If he gave chase, he would be able to catch up to Zhu Honggong. The problem was he needed to use item cards if he wanted to capture Old Eighth. Little Yuan’er was powerful, but she was not powerful enough to deal with Old Eighth. Moreover, he was wary of the current situation. He would need Little Yuan’er by his side for protection. The psychological trauma of the luck draw gave him a bad feeling about this. ‘Forget it. I’ll capture him next time. That rascal is lucky! I should try and capture him first before I try my luck at the lucky draw.’

It was not difficult if Lu Zhou wanted to capture Zhu Honggong. He had all the time and chances in the world. He would leave Zhu Honggong alone for now since he had more important matters to attend to

“Master! Master! Quick! The traitor’s getting away!” Little Yuan’er began shouting.

“It’s fine.” Lu Zhou waved his hand. “I have something else to attend to.”

“Oh.” Little Yuan’er looked at Zhu Honggong’s vanishing back in the forest regretfully.

Lu Zhou was about to make his way to the Green Jade Altar when the cultivator who was chasing after Zhu Honggong earlier called out, “Grandmaster!”

Lu Zhou turned to look. “It’s you?”

A man stood near the battle. An air of arrogance emitted from his body as he stood unaffected by the chaos unraveling around him. The man was none other than Duan Xing, the third seat of Fiend Temple. Lu Zhou had previously met him at Runan's holy altar. It was truly strange to see two individuals from the Fiend Path at the Green Jade Altar. They seemed out of place.

"Greetings, grandmaster. It is I, Junior Duan Xing." When Duan Xing was chasing after Zhu Honggong, he had seen Bi An and the flashing golden cage in the air. He instantly recognized the old man. With the Buddhist grandmaster around, he had no choice but to give up on his pursuit.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard calmly. "Fiend Temple has always been at odds with the Noble Path, they're like fire and water. Why are you here?"

Duan Xing replied respectfully, "My temple master has ordered us to come here because he and Sect Master Zhang are discussing ways to take down the villains. I'm only here to accompany him." After he finished speaking, he looked to the left and to the right before continued to say, "I didn't expect to see you here, grandmaster."

Lu Zhou waved his hand. He looked at the ongoing battle. It seemed like it was almost over. The opposition was being pushed back.

"What happened here?" Lu Zhou asked.

Duan Xing chuckled. The Fiend Temple was trying to keep this a secret since they did not want people to find out about this. They had been careful during their journey, but their movements were still discovered. With Zhu Honggong's attack, it was almost as good as announcing the secret to the world. At this point, it was futile to keep this a secret. For this reason, he bowed and said, "The Fiend Temple's movements have been exposed. The Evil King tried to sow dissension by bringing many Noble Path's cultivators here to take down the Fiend Temple. The Evil King even deliberately exposed his whereabouts to attract more Noble Path cultivators here. That's why the situation is so chaotic. The losses are heavy as well."

Lu Zhou nodded. 'There's no way Old Eighth could've come up with a plan like this. There's no need to guess. Old Seventh, Si Wuya, must be behind this.'

Lu Zhou looked at the cultivators who were still fighting. Based on their auras and cultivation methods, indeed, there seemed to be many cultivators from the Noble Path fighting among themselves.

Duan Xing spoke up again, "Why didn't you take the Evil King down in one strike, grandmaster? If we can capture him, my temple's name will be cleared!"

"Clear your name?" Lu Zhou asked indifferently.

"The Fiend Temple belongs to the Fiend Path. Now that we're colluding with the Righteous Sect, we're sure to become a laughingstock to other people. If we can capture the Evil King, it'll be a great achievement! The Noble Path's attention will also be on the Evil King at that time."

Lu Zhou's expression was neutral. His emotions were indecipherable. He stroked his beard and said, "Good plan. A member of the Fiend Path catching another member of the Fiend Path. The thief crying, 'Thief!'. Interesting."

Duan Xing felt slightly embarrassed when he heard Lu Zhou's words. He scratched his head and said, "Grandmaster, the Evil Sky Pavilion has killed our second seat in the past. We're only getting even by capturing the Evil King. I don't think we're like a thief crying, 'Thief!'."

Little Yuan'er placed her hand on her hips and said, "You're a thief!"

If any other cultivator had humiliated Duan Xing in this manner, he would have jumped in anger. However, with the grandmaster here, it was not wise for him to behave in such a way. The only thing he could do was laugh awkwardly and say, "You're right, you're right..." He was a tactful person and not as detestable as those hypocrites. After a while, he asked, "What brings you to the Green Jade Altar, grandmaster?"

"Where's Hua Wudao?" Lu Zhou asked calmly.

"Hua Wudao? Yun Sect's elder? He's here?" Duan Xing appeared surprised.

"The Fiend Temple doesn't know about this?"

"I'm only accompanying my temple master. I wasn't informed about this," Duan Xing replied.

Lu Zhou looked at the top of the Green Jade Altar and said, "Are they all up there?"

Duan Xing shook his head and said, "When Evil King caused the disturbance, my temple master left."

Lu Zhou shook his head. 'That rascal has ruined my plans.' He waved his hand, and Bi An flew toward the Green Jade Altar.

...

Meanwhile, in a corner of the forest around Green Jade Altar.

Zhu Honggong, Old Eighth, slumped to the ground. He kept wiping the sweat off his face. He panted heavily as fear lingered in his heart. A gloomy expression could be seen on his face when he finally calmed down. He wondered out loud, "Why is master here?! I didn't sign up for this! Seventh Senior Brother, show yourself!"

Old Seventh, Si Wuya, walked out slowly from the dense forest. He shook his head and said, "This is unexpected. I didn't think master would appear at the Green Jade Altar as well."

"I don't care. This your plan! I want compensation!" Zhu Honggong straightened his arm and put his hands out as though demanding for something to be given to him.

Si Wuya smiled. He put his palms together and said, "Alright, alright... It's all my fault. The Darknet will cover the Tiger Ridge's expenses for a year."

"That's more like it." Zhu Honggong felt much better now. He scratched his head and said, "Seventh Senior Brother, we've gone through much trouble to come up with this plan, but what is it for?"

Chapter 109: What a Shame!

Si Wuya said slowly, "The Fiend Temple intends on working with the Righteous Sect. We can't let that happen. Nobody knows how powerful Ren Buping currently is. There aren't many who can suppress him right now. Eldest Senior Brother has always kept a low profile. He rarely ventures out from his mountain. Second Senior Brother's whereabouts are unknown... As for the other elites, we can't place our hopes in them."

"Second Senior Brother likes to challenge elites, why don't we speak to him?" Zhu Honggong asked tentatively.

"The people I sent there came running out of fear in less than three days. I'm afraid Second Senior Brother is slightly angry about what happened with Fan Xiuwen," Si Wuya said as he shook his head.

"Second Senior Brother has always been the amiable one. If he's angry, forget it, then." Zhu Honggong shuddered and shook his head.

Si Wuya started pacing with his hands on his back. He walked to a spot in the forest where his view was relatively unobstructed. He looked in the direction of the Green Jade Altar. "It's unexpected that master would show up here. In any case, our plan is almost completed. Tell your men to retreat."

"Alrighty."

"Also..." Si Wuya paused to smile before he said, "Master deliberately let you go..."

"That's what I think as well. I had the shock of my life!" Zhu Honggong shook his head. He did not want to revisit that memory.

"With master's usual disposition, I don't think he would let you go for no reason. I suspect there's someone helping him." Si Wuya recalled the Evil Sky Pavilion had recruited several new members. Perhaps, there were some intelligent ones among those people.

"There's no one else but Little Junior Sister there... She's as fierce as ever. She was this close to jumping down and biting me," Zhu Honggong said bitterly.

Si Wuya rolled his eyes at him and ignored Zhu Honggong. 'I can't communicate with this dimwit.' After a while, he said, "Let's go." He raised his hand slightly and a peacock plume that shone with golden radiance on both ends and purple radiance in between appeared. Its exterior seemed to be a cylinder forged from pure gold.

Si Wuya gave it a light wave.

Whoosh!

The hidden weapons inside the cylinder shot toward a huge tree. The hidden weapons looked extremely dazzling. They were as stunning as a peacock unfurling its tail feathers.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The hidden weapons were embedded in the huge tree like nails.

Si Wuya and Zhu Honggong did not even look back. With swift movements, they disappeared into the forest.

The dazzling hidden weapons were golden energy seals condensed from Primal Qi. They were as beautiful as golden feathers. However, while the onlooker was mesmerized by the shocking beauty, it had already claimed a life.

Crack!

After the huge tree fell, a sneaky cultivator's eyes were widened in fear as he stared at the hidden weapon embedded in his chest.

When the peacock unfurled its feathers, the cultivator lost his last breath immediately and fell to the ground.

...

Meanwhile, Lu Zhou steered Bi An toward the top of the Green Jade Altar. He looked down and saw many people were gathered on the Green Jade Altar's spacious plaza.

The Green Jade Altar was the Righteous Sect's territory. However, it was only a place where the Righteous Sect's members practiced swordplay and cultivated.

"Master, over there."

Bi An dove down on Lu Zhou's order.

When the cultivators on the Green Jade Altar saw Bi An, a shocked expression appeared on their faces.

"Who's that?"

"Everyone, be careful!"

"The audacity! Barging into the Green Jade Altar like this."

Dozens of cultivators in navy-blue robes stood in neat rows and unsheathed their swords to face this newcomer.

Meanwhile, some of the cultivators in black robes looked at the sky in confusion.

Lu Zhou said clearly, "Where's Hua Wudao?"

"Hua Wudao?"

On the Green Jade Altar, the cultivators exchanged looks among themselves.

"The Green Jade Altar is the holy land of cultivation for the Righteous Sect. My old friend, don't you think it's inappropriate for you to come here uninvited?"

Little Yuan'er could not stifle her laughter. Lu Zhou looked at her coldly, and she quickly stopped laughing, turning docile and solemn. She pointed at the cultivators and said, "We'll come as we please. Why should we wait for an invitation? Ridiculous!"

Lu Zhou did not descend immediately. This was the Righteous Sect's territory, after all. If they knew that he was the great villain, danger might rain down on him from every direction.

'If it's possible I want to use as few item cards as possible. The cultivation path is long. If my frequent purchase of the cards causes the price to increase beyond what's affordable while my cultivation base stays stagnant, I'm as good as dead.'

At this moment, Duan Xing appeared. He landed on the Green Jade Altar and cupped his hands into fists at everyone. He said, "Everyone, this is the Buddhist grandmaster I've mentioned before. On Runan's holy altar, he's the grandmaster who killed the bald... the monk, Kong Xuan, with a single strike!" He quickly changed his words midway through his sentence. He was used to referring monks as bald donkeys after all. It would not be appropriate for him to use this term in front of the grandmaster.

"Grandmaster?"

Everyone was shocked. The Righteous Sect's disciples shifted uneasily.

The Fiend Temple's disciples, on the other hand, cupped their fists together. "Greetings, grandmaster!"

Lu Zhou ordered Bi An to descend on the Green Jade Altar. After it had descended, it did not leave. It sat on its haunches obediently, baring its fangs once in a while.

The Righteous Sect's disciples gulped at the sight of this. They did not know if they should feel frightened or envious.

At this moment, Zhang Chu walked out and said, "My name's Zhang Chu, the fifth elder of the Righteous Sect. Greetings, grandmaster."

With Zhang Chu as an example, the other disciples followed suit and cupped their fists to greet Lu Zhou as well.

Lu Zhou merely stroked his beard and nodded. He spoke in a neutral tone, "Where's Zhang Yuanshan?"

The Righteous Sect's fifth elder, Zhang Chu, bowed and said, "We're receiving important guests on the Green Jade Altar today... However, the Evil Sky Pavilion's Evil King unexpectedly showed up to cause trouble. For this reason, Zhang Yuanshan had left with the other guests prematurely. Grandmaster, if you like, you can lodge in the Green Jade Altar and wait for our sect master's return!"

Duan Xing sighed before he chimed in, "It's all because of that villain... What a shame! If grandmaster had captured the Evil King earlier, the matter today would have been settled. What a shame!"

Lu Zhou felt that it was a shame as well. If only Old Eighth and Old Seventh did not spoil his plans, he might have been able to meet Zhang Yuanshan and Hua Wudao. He regretted the fact that his Binding Cage Card failed to hit its target.

However, the Green Jade Altar was the Righteous Sect's territory, after all. There was also a Grand Formation around the Green Jade Altar. If Lu Zhou wanted to act against Zhang Yuanshan, he would have to spend a fortune on buying cards. He felt that it was not worth it to waste too many cards on a single person.

'Let's play it safe for now. If I go overboard, I might lose my life. At that time, I can forget about investigating the truth behind the Fish Dragon Village's incident.'

Lu Zhou did not have time to chat with these people. He glanced at the disciples standing on Green Jade Altar's plaza. Some of them were in the Body Tempering realm while most of them had just recently entered the Mystic Enlightening realm. There were also a few in the Sense Condensing realm, the Brahman Sea realm, and the Divine Court realm, who were also the leaders.

'It's truly a waste of my item cards if I'd used them against these people.' Lu Zhou stroked his beard and asked, "Hua Wudao has returned to the Yun Sect?"

"Elder Hua has been cultivating in seclusion in the Yun Sect all these years. He's finally emerged from seclusion... I don't think he'll be returning to the Yun Sect anytime soon," someone from the crowd said.

Duan Xing cupped his fists and said, "Hua Wudao was defeated by the Evil Sky Pavilion's Ji Tiandao 20 years ago. This has become a knot in his heart. I'm afraid it'll be difficult for him to improve if he doesn't resolve the knot in his heart. I won't be surprised if he has gone to the Evil Sky Pavilion to resolve this problem."

Everyone was shocked. Some of the disciples who knew about this began discussing among themselves.

"Elder Hua's cultivation base has barely improved over the last 20 years. He's seeking trouble."

"To each his own. It's been 20 years, perhaps, Elder Hua has some tricks up his sleeve."

"I think the outcome will be grim... Recently, the four Dark Knights from the Divine Capital's secret forces went to the Evil Sky Pavilion, but they didn't return. Knowing the old villain, it can't be anything good."

"The Four Dark Knights? Didn't an elder mention that their leader is Fan Xiuwen who was at the top of the blacklist 300 years ago?"

The further they discussed this, the more uncertain they felt.

If the fate of a person who was formerly at the top of the blacklist was unknown after visiting the Evil Sky Pavilion, how could Hua Wudao whose cultivation base remained stagnant in the last 20 years stand a chance?

"Silence!" The fifth elder barked, "Look at you, incompetent fools! Scared out of your wits after a few words of discussion. If the old villain stands before you now, won't you be peeing your pants?"

Chapter 110: Old Enemy

Little Yuan'er did not laugh. Perhaps, her funny bone had become immune to these situations. She walked to Lu Zhou and said in a soft voice, "Master... They're terribly afraid of you."

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and looked in the direction of Measure Heaven River. Based on his calculations, Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng were supposed to arrive by now. As for Hua Wudao, based on what he heard, it seemed like he would be seeing Hua Wudao sooner or later. If that was the case, all he had to do was guard the tree stump as he waited for the rabbit. There was no need to look for Hua Wudao everywhere. If Hua Wudao knew who the mastermind behind the Fish Dragon incident was, it

would be even better. At this moment, the best person for him to get information from was Hua Wudao.

The witchcraft elite from the palace was extremely cunning. He was capable of setting up the Grand Witchcraft Formation at Measure Heaven River and observing the situation through the red flying chariot while giving out orders at the same time. It was apparent that he was highly skilled in witchcraft. Moreover, he was powerful enough to command Chen Zhu, one of the Three Godly Archers. He must enjoy a high status and have great influence as well.

After the battle at Measure Heaven River, this elite would surely be more cautious and cunning. Jiang Aijian had connections in the palace, but even he could not approach that person, let alone someone like Lu Zhou who was an outsider.

"Hua Wudao..." Lu Zhou muttered to himself.

"Our sect master is honestly preoccupied right now... I should be beheaded for making you wait, grandmaster!" Zhang Chu, the fifth elder, said with a bow.

Lu Zhou merely looked at him indifferently before ignoring him. 'He's only a Divine Court realm cultivator, and yet, he's already an elder of the sect. It seems like the Righteous Sect isn't what it used to be...'

Duan Xing walked out and said, "Everyone, the battle below the Green Jade Altar is over for now. Since our plans have been disrupted, why don't we continue this discussion some other time?"

"Good suggestion!" Zhang Chu said with a nod.

"Well, then, I'll be taking my leave!" Duan Xing ignored the other disciples on the Green Jade Altar. He merely cupped his fists toward Zhang Chu.

Lu Zhou gave this man another glance. 'Strange. There's nothing special about him.'

Duan Xing turned around and walked up to Lu Zhou. He spoke reverently, "Grandmaster, I have something that I have to attend to. I'll be taking my leave."

"Wait," Lu Zhou spoke calmly.

"Do you have any instructions for me, grandmaster?" Duan Xing did not dare slight Lu Zhou, immediately coming to a halt.

"I have a piece of advice for Ren Buping."

"I shall pass on your words of wisdom in its entirety to the temple master, grandmaster." Duan Xing appeared to be listening respectfully.

Lu Zhou stroked his beard and nodded as he said, "Protect the Fiend Temple, and mind your own business. Otherwise, you'll bring upon your own demise."

Duan Xing was taken aback by these words. He did not understand what the grandmaster meant, but he did not dare to question it. He bowed and said, "Thank you, grandmaster! Farewell, then." He waved his arm. With the Fiend Temple's disciples in tow, he left the Green Jade Altar.

Lu Zhou looked at the time again. He felt that it was about time for him to leave. With Mingshi Yin and Duanmu Sheng's speed, they should not be hindered just because they were carrying another person. Moreover, the two of them had just recently entered the Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm so their speed should have improved even more.

Just when Lu Zhou was about to leave, a voice rang from behind the Green Jade Altar disciples. "Which grandmaster came to visit the Green Jade Altar? Let me have a look at him."

The disciples on the Green Jade Altar moved backward and cleared a path between them.

"Zhang Qiuchi?" Zhang Chu went up to meet the person who had spoken. It was none other than the Righteous Sect's Zhang Qiuchi.

Lu Zhou vaguely remembered this person. He defeated Mingshi Yin some years ago. Mingshi Yin was badly bruised back then. Mingshi Yin was once depressed because of this. He hid in the mountains and cultivated painstakingly. Now that a few years had passed, Zhang Qiuchi's strength and cultivation base should have improved as well.

Zhang Qiuchi was polite. When he saw Bi An sitting near Lu Zhou, he was slightly taken aback. He quickly regained his senses and said, "Greetings, grandmaster."

Lu Zhou ignored him. He looked at Little Yuan'er and said, "Let's go."

"Mhm."

"Grandmaster?" Zhang Qiuchi was puzzled by Lu Zhou's cold treatment.

All of a sudden, the disciples on the Green Jade Altar exclaimed in surprise.

"Someone's coming!"

Everyone looked up, including Zhang Qiuchi.

"Hm?"

It was understandable that Zhang Qiuchi did not recognize Lu Zhou. After all, Lu Zhou's appearance had changed considerably. However, there was no doubt that he would be able to recognize the Evil Sky Pavilion's fourth disciple, Mingshi Yin. In recent years, one of the biggest factors that contributed to Zhang Qiuchi's meteoric rise was his victory over the Evil Sky Pavilion's fourth disciple, Mingshi Yin. He became excited when he saw Mingshi Yin flying toward him.

"Mingshi Yin? He's coming to the Green Jade Altar?!"

"It's Mingshi Yin?"

"The Evil Sky Pavilion's fourth villain, Mingshi Yin!"

The disciples on the Green Jade Altar were shocked. Since their cultivation bases were low, they did not dare to recklessly charge at Mingshi Yin. Moreover, the sect master and other elders were not around. Fortunately, they had Zhang Qiuchi who was a match for Mingshi Yin, and Zhang Qiuchi who had defeated Mingshi Yin before. This was like a golden opportunity granted to them by the heavens.

Lu Zhou's expression remained indifferent when he saw Mingshi Yin. However, inwardly he felt suspicious. 'Duanmu Sheng should be with him. Where's he?'

At this moment, Zhang Qiuchi leaped into the air. He laughed and said, "The heavens are on my side! I'll capture this villain alive today. We'll see who dares to look down on the Righteous Sect after this!"

"With Elder Zhang here, there won't be any problem with capturing the villain."

"We're willing to cheer the elder on!"

Zhang Qiuchi nodded. He said to Lu Zhou who was next to him, "Grandmaster, I'll place them in your care."

Lu Zhou waved his hand and said nothing.

Many disciples on the Green Jade Altar leaped into the air as well. Those with weaker cultivation bases could only stay on the Green Jade Altar and watch.

A hint of excitement could be seen in Zhang Qiuchi's eyes as he flew toward Mingshi Yin.

Lu Zhou leaped onto Bi An's back. He stroked his beard calmly, "Everything is predestined."

Little Yuan'er leaped onto Bi An as well. "What's predestined?"

"It's Zhang Yuanshan and Hua Wudao's destinies. It's also your Fourth Senior Brother's destiny."

Bi An growled and leaped into the air.

At the same time, Mingshi Yin sailed through the air.

The Green Jade was already in sight. Then, he suddenly turned in another direction. This was the Righteous Sect's territory, after all.

"Where's master?" Mingshi Yin scratched his head as he surveyed his surroundings. He slowed down, preparing to descend. He looked behind him as he muttered to himself, "Third Senior Brother should be here soon! Although he doesn't have the Overlord Spear, I'm still faster than he is!" He laughed gleefully.

Mingshi Yin was still feeling pleased with himself when a shrill cry rang from the direction of the Green Jade Altar.

"Mingshi Yin!"

Mingshi Yin looked behind. He frowned. He recognized the person immediately. He cried out, "Zhang Qiuchi? It's you?"

"There are paths to heaven, and yet, you abandoned them. There are no doors to hell, and yet, you've barged right in!" Zhang Qiuchi hovered in the air with his hands on his back. He looked at Mingshi Yin with a burning gaze as though he was looking at his prey.

Mingshi Yin waved his hand and said, "I'm in no mood to fight you today... Have you seen my master?"

Zhang Qiuchi was momentarily stunned. Then, he said in a deep voice, "Do you think you can frighten me with your master's name? I'll mete out justice on behalf of the heavens today!"

"Wait." Mingshi Yin waved his hand again. "I'm serious, have you seen my master?"

Zhang Qiuchi was provoked by Mingshi Yin's seemingly flippant behavior. He said harshly, "If I see him, I'll kill him as well!"

Bzzt!

Primal Qi converged from the surroundings.

Zhang Qiuchi made a few hand seals, and Daoist Mudras began circling him.

Primal Qi continued to surge.

Nascent Divinity Tribulation realm!

At this moment, the disciples from the Green Jade Altar who finally caught up to them landed on the ground, surrounding them.

Mingshi Yin looked at the sky and did not see his master at all. 'I've fallen for master's tricks again!'